of primary weavers cooperative societies at a concessional rate of interest and also procurement, marketing and trading-in-yarn activities by apex/regional weaver's cooperative societies. Individual weavers are also provided working capital as per normal District Credit Plan.

(d) Some of the steps taken by Govt. to provide adequate yarn at a lesser price to handloom weavers are: operation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme, loan assistance to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up new weavers' cooperative spinning mills and expansion of capacity of the existing mills and the yarn supply operations (including supply of yarn to handloom weavers at mill-gate prices) of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). The recently introduced Yarn Depot Scheme operated by NHDC is subsidised to the extent of 5% of the value of yarn supplied to provide for a part of the cost of transportation interest on working capital and other overheads.

Setting up of a Slag Cement Plant at Rourkela

289. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up a slag cement plant at Rourkela in Orissa has been pending since long;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay; and

(c) what steps are being taken to give early clearance to that project ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closure of Iron Ore Mines in Orissa

290. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of iron ore mines in Orissa have been closed down;

(b) whether some more iron ore mines have fallen sick or are on the verge of closure;

(c) if so, what are the reasons of the sickness and closure of those mines in Orissa; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to revive those mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only a few small mines have not reported any production during 1989.

(c) and (d) Closure of some mines may be due to management or financial problems. The iron ore market both domestic and export is presently buoyant and demand for ore is on the up and up. Price of iron ore has also increased.

Creation of All India Election Service

291. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleaed to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the creation of an All India Election Service;